

Cornèr Banca SA
Lugano Head office

Comunicato stampa/Communiqué de presse
Pressemitteilung/Press Release

Lugano, 17th February 2009

Net increase in profit for Cornèr Banca Group

Cornèr Banca Group, whose general management and head office are in Lugano, closed its 57th year last December 31, 2008 with a net profit of 89,6 million Swiss Francs, against the 79,9 million Swiss Francs registered in the previous year (+12,1%).

Thanks to its historically prudent corporate policy, Cornèr Banca Group has not been affected by the extraordinary events of 2008 and has thus avoided the severe financial and world economic crisis as well as the consequences resulting from the Madoff-scandal.

Following its well-proven traditional bank practices, Cornèr Banca Group was able to furthermore consolidate its assets. By choosing preventive solutions the group increased the cash holdings and its financial investments and significantly reduced the interbank activities. Its shareholder's equity has now reached 731,7 million Swiss Francs, almost three times the amount prescribed by the accord of Basle II.

Extremely positive was the reaction of the clientele, that maintained its absolute trust in Cornèr Banca Group's operations, even during moments of great uncertainty in the markets. The total customer deposits have reached 3'323,7 million Swiss Francs, corresponding to an increase of 6,9% with respect to 2007.

Private Banking has again benefited from a constant inflow of new clients, while the credit department was able to register a remarkable increase, but, always in accordance with selective and qualitative criteria. As to the credit card sector, Cornèrcard has again achieved excellent results, thanks to extremely attentive business policies, typical of the Swiss market.

Since January 1st, 2009 Cornèr Banca Group is also present in Zürich with a new branch, specialized in Private Banking.

At the end of 2008, the group counted 771 employees (766 in 2007), 60 of them working in foreign affiliated companies.

For information: Anna Russo, resp. PR, tel +4191 8005354 fax +4191 8004303 anna.russo@corner.ch

Key Figures of the Cornèr Banca Group (million CHF)

| | 2008 | 2007 | |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Liquid assets | 828,9 | 645,0 | +28,5% |
| Financial investments | 526,7 | 440,4 | +19,6% |
| Due from clients | 2'194,7 | 2'114,9 | +3,8% |
| Due from banks | 992,5 | 1'739,8 | -43,0% |
| Customer deposits | 3'323,7 | 3'109,7 | +6,9% |
| Due to banks | 421,8 | 1'084,2 | -61,1% |
| Shareholders' equity | 731,7 | 678,1 | +7,9% |
| Total assets | 4'813,3 | 5'134,8 | -6,3% |
| Net profit | 89,6 | 79,9 | +12,1% |
| Taxes | 19,8 | 15,3 | +29,6% |